

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-04 AGR-10 EB-07 IGA-01

COME-00 IO-10 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 TRSE-00 L-02 H-02 /087 W

----- 056578

P R 011330Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0589

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

UNCLAS CONAKRY 0447

MONROVIA FOR AGATT; CANBERRA FOR HARROP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID GV

SUBJECT: PL480 TITLE I -- GUINEA

REF: STATE 034581

1 ALPHA OUMAR BARRY, MINISTER OF DOMAIN OF EXCHANGES, CALLED ME IN APRIL 1 TO ASK URGENTLY ABOUT STATUS OF FY75 PL480 PROGRAM. BARRY, WHO SAID HE WAS TAKING INITIATIVE IN ABSENCE OF STATE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MOUSSA DIAKITE, PUT MAIN EMPHASIS ON URGENT REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF EDIBLE OIL IN FY75 PROGRAM.

2. HE SAID THAT GUINEA BADLY NEEDED MINIMUM OF 2,000 METRIC TONS OIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. GUINEA HAS COUNTED ON US TO SUPPLY OIL IN PREVIOUS YEARS, AND IS COUNTING ON IT THIS YEAR AS WELL. HE SAID THAT OIL IS NOT IMPORTED FROM OTHER SOURCES.

3. BARRY NOTED THAT DURING VISIT OF DIAKITE DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON, USG TOLD GUINEANS THAT 10,000 METRIC TONS RICE AND 10,000 METRIC TONS WHEAT FLOUR WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS YEAR UNDER TITLE I PROGRAM. GOG GRATEFUL FOR THIS, BUT HE, AS MINISTER

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PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING IMPORTED COMMODITIES WAS

SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT SOYA OIL WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED. HE STRESSED THAT EVEN IF AMOUNTS OF RICE AND CORN MUST BE DIMINISHED SLIGHTLY, HE HOPED THAT OIL COULD BE ADDED TO LIST.

4. I REPLIED THAT I WAS AWAITING NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON TO GET ON WITH PROCESS LEADING TO SIGNATURE OF THIS YEAR'S PL480 AGREEMENT. I SAID I WOULD COMMUNICATE HIS DEMARCHE TO WASHINGTON URGENTLY, AND WOULD REQUEST AN URGENT RESPONSE AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE.

5. UPON REVIEWING DEPT'S REPORT ON DIAKITE DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL), I NOTED THAT AID/W EXPLAINED THAT SOYA OIL NOT AVAILABLE THIS YEAR. I CALLED STATE COMMITTEE (SEKOU CAMARA AND MOUNTAGA KEITA) TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER DR. BARRY HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THIS. SEKOU CAMARA REPLIED THAT DIAKITE HAD MADE FULL REPORT IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, INCLUDING QUESTION OF OIL. HE ADDED THAT DR. BARRY PRESENT, BUT MAY HAVE MISSED CERTAIN "DETAILS." BUT CAMARA PLEADED ONCE AGAIN FOR RECONSIDERATION, AND REPEATED THAT GUINEA WILLING "GIVE UP" SOME OF WHEAT FLOUR, IF NECESSARY, IN RETURN FOR GETTING SOME BADLY NEEDED SOYA OIL. I AGREED AGAIN TO PASS ON THIS URGENT REQUEST.

6. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP WHAT RESPONSE EMBASSY SHOULD CONVEY TO GOG REGARDING THIS MATTER.
MACDONALD

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